FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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FTA Board Resolution

THE CRISIS IN CIO

Meeting immediately after the 11th convention of the national CIO, to which FTA sent five delegates, the International Executive Board of FTA held a full discussion of the new turn in national CIO constitution and policies. After the discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board. Text of the resolution is given in full:

In 1937 the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America affiliated to the CIO under the leadership of John L. Lewis with the full knowledge that the CIO at that time gave full autonomy and democracy to FTA and its membership. From 1938 until this year, the CIO Constitution has remained a document giving to International Unions and their memberships democratic rights for the rank and file to determine their own policies, elect their own representatives. International Unions had all the rights of voluntary affiliated International Unions.

At the Portland Convention of the CIO last year, and at the National Executive Board meeting of the CIO this spring, efforts were made by intimidation and by resolution to force these International Unions and their memberships to follow National CIO policy whether these policies conflicted with the democratically adopted policies of our own membership or not. The memberships of the various International Unions were threatened with expulsion unless they accepted the decisions of a handful of men on the Executive Board of the CIO and unless they gave up the democratic rights of their own memberships and their own International Unions to determine their own policies.

These threats were made even more real and compelling by widespread raiding against all unions which did not become a rubber stamp for this handful of top CIO officials. During this period, over 19 raids on 23,450 dues-paying members of FTA have been made. Six CIO International Unions, as well as the National CIO itself and the CIO Southern Organizing Drive, took part in these raids.

During the past year, FTA supported by its membership and its International Executive Board, has fought hard to maintain the democratic Constitution of CIO and protect the autonomy and democracy which had existed in the past in CIO. We fought to put an end to raiding and to maintain the unity of CIO.

Every effort was made to restore unity both before and during the 11th Constitutional Convention at Cleveland. However, the leaders of National CIO consistently slammed the door on all constructive proposals made by FTA and other unions.

The recent 11th Constitutional Convention of the CIO has brought about a catastrophic change in the Constitution and the policies of CIO.

1 DEMOCRACY AND AUTONOMY: Constitutional amendments have been passed so that there no longer exist autonomy and democracy for International Unions affiliated to the CIO. Memberships may no longer determine their own policies and their own leadership. Under the CIO Constitution today, all policies adopted by the National CIO must be followed by every CIO International Union and every CIO member or be faced with raiding and expulsion. Democratically adopted policies and programs of International Unions and International Union Constitutions themselves must be violated in order to conform with the Constitutional changes, programs and policies adopted by National CIO.

FTA, its Conventions and its Local Union meetings become little more than a rubber stamp for decisions made by a few top leaders in the National Executive Council of the CIO. In fact, four or five leaders in the United Steelworkers Union, the United Auto Workers Union and the Textile Workers Union can dictate these policies which by the present Constitution of the CIO must be carried out by every CIO member or be subject to expulsion.

The right of our membership and International Union to determine its own representatives on the National CIO Executive Board has been denied.

The basic policy of our International Union not to discriminate within our membership regardless of age, sex, nationality, race, creed, color or political and religious beliefs, has been violated.

2 INCREASED PER CAPITA FOR RAIDING: FTA supported the increase in per capita tax at the last CIO Convention in Portland raising the per capita from five cents to eight cents. We did this in spite of the fact that we were afraid that this increased per capita tax might be used to continue the raids which had already started against us.

But for the sake of unity, and to help organize the unorganized, we supported the increase in per capita tax for one year.

This year the per capita tax has been increased from the original five cents to 10 cents per month per member.

Acting President John Tisa, a delegate to the 11th CIO Convention stated:

"Our organization is vigorously opposed to any increase in per capita tax unless the national CIO comes out with a resolution and recommendation to end raiding and to use that money for organization."

The CIO Convention not only refused to take any steps to end raiding, but its leaders, including President Murray, justified raiding, made clear it would continue and said this money would be used for raiding.

The membership of FTA cannot continue to see its own money paid over to the CIO for per capita tax used to raid, disrupt and attack our own membership.

3 FALSE CHARGES AND TRIALS: The CIO Convention and the National Executive Board of CIO in order to carry out its policy of regimentation and denial of autonomy has filed viciously untrue charges against FTA and its leading representatives. In carrying out these dictatorial policies, the National CIO has made the exercise of democracy by the membership of our International Union and the carrying out of FTA policies a so-called "communistic" crime. On behalf of the International Executive Board, the International Officers and

(Continued on Page 5)

Score on Congress

CONGRESS LAYS AN EGG

By Richard Sasuly

WASHINGTON — (FP)—Accomplishments of the first session of the 81st Congress seem fairly poor at first glance. On close inspection they look worse.

The only bill of major importance to labor is the revision of the wage hour act and at that it discriminates heavily against food, tobacco and cotton oil workers.

The new law raises minimum wages to 75 cents an hour in an attempt to catch up with the rise in cost of living since the 40 cent minimum was set in 1938, but it robs at least 250,000 workers of coverage by the act. Extension of coverage has been sought by labor for years. Agricultural workers are totally ignored.

An overall summary of action by the first session, 81st Congress, was issued by the White House earlier in the week. Listed were 96 measures on which Pres. Truman urged action by Congress.

Of the 96, 42 were law or apparently assured of becoming law. On the surface this record seems good. Analysis reveals, however, that most of the bills which passed are concentrated in a few fields. Most domestic issues of interest to labor and liberals generally were ignored or sidetracked.

Truman was given most of what he asked for in the fields of military and foreign affairs programs. Of 11 requested military measures, six already have passed. Under foreign affairs were 12 recommendations and 10 were passed. Included were such major items as extension of the Marshall plan, approval of the Atlantic pact and military aid to pact countries.

In five major domestic fields —labor, civil rights, social welfare, education and natural resources—there were a total of 31 recommendations, nearly a third of the President's whole program. Of the 31, exactly one of any importance, the 75 cent minimum wage, passed. The three others out of the 31 which passed were: a minor hospital construction bill, construction of one dam and a small appropriation for Natl. Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

Taft-Hartley Sellout

Taft-Hartley repeal got nowhere. There were nine civil liberties measures and none had a chance. The score on education bills was zero for four. The most important natural resources measures, valley authority bills, were stuck in committee.

On Truman's housing recommendations the score seemed better—four for eight. However, two of the housing recommendations actually were military. They involved housing in Alaska and on military posts. The other two were the housing act which was generally agreed to be a moderate advance and rent control extension. This last has turned out to be a device for piecemeal scrapping of rent controls.

Both farmers and consumers were sold out in the main farm measure passed by the 81st Congress. Truman's own Brannan Plan, which would have cut workers' food costs while keeping farmers' income up to certain minimum standards, was knifed by Truman's boys in the Senate, including Vice-President Barkley.

(On an international scale too, the Truman administration knifed workers and farmers on food. This was done by the U. S. representatives on the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, who KO'd a plan to distribute food to world hunger areas regardless of politics. This however would have bypassed the State Dept.'s cold war with all of China and most of Europe, so the plan was killed on their orders.)

The congressional batting average was raised by 13 measures in the noncontroversial fields of general government, federal civilian personnel and government corporations. Of the 13, 11 went into effect. The only measure in this group which was opposed by reactionaries was that creating a Federal Welfare Department. It was dumped.

There was no action on depression control or antitrust measures. In the fields of commerce and industry the only two recommendations approved involved export controls and foreign trade agreements, both generally considered cold war measures.

Few people here want to risk a guess on the second session of the 81st Congress. With 1950 an election year, congressmen may feel the voters' breath on their necks. To date, however, the record of the 81st Congress on domestic reforms is a bust.

What Does A Congressman Do Off Duty?

What does a Congressman do in his spare time when he isn't down in Washington making laws?

Lots of them take trips—at the taxpayers' expense, usually in airplanes.

Like the bunch that set out for Puerto Rico to study whether or not the island should come under social security.

They were all ready to go when someone reminded them that Puerto Rico had already been put under the social security law. Did that stop them?

Not a bit. They simply announced that they were going to study how the social security law would be administered there, in the future.

At the taxpayer's expense, naturally.

THAT Was Yesterday

The Philip Murray who spent five days at the 1949 CIO convention cursing and blasting at what he called "communism" in the CIO wasn't always the same.

In a convention not so long ago, 1946 in fact, Murray upheld the right of unions and their members to hold their own opinions and form their own policies. This is what he said then:

"We ask no man his national origin, his color, his religion or his beliefs. It is enough for us that he believes in trade unionism.

"As a democratic institution, we engage in no purges, no witch hunts. We do not dictate a man's thoughts or beliefs.

"Most important of all, we do not permit ourselves to be stampeded into courses of action which create division among our members and sow the disunity which is sought by those false prophets and hypocritical advisers from without who mean us to good."

Murray's supporters claim he hasn't changed, that the purges and expulsions at the 1949 convention are the climax of a long project to "cleanse" the CIO. But there's the record, gentlemen, there's the record.

The ink was scarcely dry on the new charter handed to Jimmy Carey and other repudiated ex-members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers when fights broke out about who was going to lead the new CIO-puppet "IUE". Reporters at the CIO Cleveland convention were buzzing with rumors. Carey had to make a public announcement that he wasn't running for office in the new paper outfit. He sounded so unconvincing that it was just like Tom Dewey pretending not to run for President.

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The language used by many of the top officials of CIO at the convention could have come from only one place—the gutter. Philip Murray, who prides himself on his dignity, used phrases like "dirty feet" and "dirty bellies" in describing his critics. Joe Curran's favorite term was "god damn" and dirty liar." George Baldanzi of the Southern Drive openly insulted a Negro woman delegate, Sister Victoria Garvin of the Office Workers, and had to apologize.

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There were some slips of the tongue, or rather of the mind, too. Emil Rieve of the Textile Workers "forgot" to put President Murray's nomination to a vote, declaring him elected without calling for ayes or nays. Rieve had to be reminded to do it right.

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The only one who blushed was Mike Quill, who Murray said, informed him of an alleged secret meeting of the "left-wing" to plot a new labor federation. When Murray used the word inform, Mike turned a deep scarlet, rose from his chair and hastily left the platform. If there's one thing the Irish hate more than an English imperialist, it's an informer.

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The muscle men and goon squads were restless all during the convention. Orders were obviously out for no rough stuff, and it gave the boys itchy knuckles. Once when the progressive delegates laughed at an awkward pause in the formula being read out against one of the 10 unions facing charges, the goons with one accord moved up to thep rogressive tables and stood around with their arms hanging down.

P. S. — The delegates stopped laughing.

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What the goons would have liked was shown during the convention elections, when bits of rope were dropped from the gallery on Harry Bridges' table. A roll of toilet paper was also thrown at Bridges. This, we can suppose, was meant to show what was really on their minds.

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Dean Acheson, the Groton and Harvard educated Wall St. lawyer who is also Secretary of State, put a real strain on the majority of the delegates when he spoke for an hour and a half. Few of them had the faintest idea what he was talking about and it was even more confusing when he finished his written speech and said he was going to talk "from the heart" for a while. Acheson's effort to appear human was so painful you could hear his spats creaking in the back row.

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The expulsions and the phony charges and trials set up for unions and leaders who differ with CIO official policies were all done strictly legally. A formula prepared by the CIO lawyer was solemnly read out for each one. The formula was exactly the same in each case. By the time the third one was read it was getting monotonous, by the seventh it was ludicrous. But it was all done legal.

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The "trial committees" set up to deal with the 10 progressive unions are already biased against the unions on trial. On FTA's committee, for example, is Emil Mazey, secretary-treasurer of the United Auto Workers. UAW has been raiding FTA for years in the Midwest. The head of the CIO Paperworkers Union will try James Durkin of the Office Workers — and Paperworkers has been raiding Office Workers also for years.

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The whole "trial" business reminds you of the poem about the dog named Fury who set out to try the sheep. "I'll be judge, I'll be jury, said cunning old Fury. . . ." And the result, of course, was tough on the sheep.

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And as the dog pointed out, it was all the sheep's fault for being one.

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FTA 19 WINS RAISES FOR 900 WORKERS

Local 19 in Memphis has just concluded the successful negotiations of 1949-50 contracts in its four cotton oil plants in Memphis. The contracts with DeSoto, Swift and Buckeye Companies establish a 90 cent minimum in the industry with other contract improvements covering approximately 900 workers.

Wage increases range from 3 cents to 10 cents per hour with a provision in the Buckeye (Proctor & Gamble) contract which guarantees a 97 cent minimum for any department where hours are lowered from the present 48 hour week with time and a half for overtime.

This means that since 1946 cotton oil workers in Local 19 have received increases on the minimums, not including the many job classification improvements, ranging from 35 cents to 44½ cents per hour. No other organized workers in Memphis can match this record of Local 19 members.

Credit for these achievements can be given to the excellent organization of these workers under the fighting leadership in the plants. Bernie Cellum, Will Rogers, Tom Williams are chairman and co-chairmen at Buckeye, Joe Wynn at Swift and Joe Gearing at DeSoto.

Wins Reinstatement, Back Pay for 19 Member

Reinstatement with back pay and vacation benefits amounting to approximately $270 have been awarded by arbitration to Eugene Lanier, vice-chairman and militant Local 19 FTA leader in the DeSoto Cotton Oil Company. In addition, the same award restored five years seniority to Phil Emory, leader and committee member in the same plant.

This victory for Local 19 members came about after the company, prior to this year's negotiations, had discharged the whole union committee. The immediate reaction of the membership at the time brought a settlement with reinstatement of all except Lanier and the penalty against Emory. This blocked an obvious company move to behead the union.

The final victory in the arbitration of this case has further strengthened the union which is now 100 per cent consolidated. Dave Connor, international representative for the Furniture Workers, acted on the panel as Local 19's arbitrator. John Mack Dyson, president, and Ed McCrea, business agent, conducted the arbitration for the union.

172 Backs FTA Stand On Democracy In CIO

A unanimous vote of "full confidence" in FTA's leadership was cast at the regular membership meeting of Local 172, San Antonio, Texas, following discussion of the situation in national CIO.

Reporting the action in a wire to Natl. Administrative Director Donald Henderson, the local said:

"Knowing your firm stand for unity in the CIO and the entire labor union movement, and your militant fight for decent wages and democracy for all, we are confident you have left nothing undone to prevent the needless and tragic disunity indicated in reports from the CIO convention. FTA Local 172 in regular meeting tonight unanimously votes full confidence in your leadership."

The telegram was signed by Joe M. Garcia, president and Henry M. Wilburn, financial secretary.

'Gossip' Now Seen as Basis for NLRB Acts

Newspaper gossip is now apparently being accepted as a basis for possible prosecution of union officers who sign Taft-Hartley affidavits, according to reports from Washington.

The newspaper gossip is to be used against officials of progressive unions who have signed the non-communist affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley law.

The report comes in a newspaper quotation from Robert N. Denham, general counsel of the Taft-Hartley Natl. Labor Relations Board, who told a Washington Federated Press reporter that he would turn over affidavits from trade union leaders to the U. S. Dept. of Justice when he thought "gossip and information from newspaper stories" justified it.

Said Denham, in an interview with Federated Press: "There is gossip, and information from newspaper stories and from people we know from our many contacts" to justify turning over affidavits to the Justice Dept. and the FBI.

This is something new in U. S. legal methods—though it was foreshadowed by the thought-control trial at Foley Square—namely, that union people should be tried on the basis of "gossip and information from newspaper stories and from people we know . . ."

Any worker who has ever been in a strike or a tough organizing situation knows what "gossip" and "newspaper stories" can add up to in the mind of an anti-union government official.

110 Backs FTA Officers Actions In Defense of Union Democracy

Wesley Kopecky, president, and Mervin Myers, business agent of FTA Local 110, representing 1,100 Quaker Oats employees in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, announced recently that a membership meeting of the union voted for the second straight time to authorize the international officers of FTA to take whatever steps necessary to preserve the right of the membership to determine the program and policies of this union. This authorization includes the right of the FTA officers to withdraw from CIO if necessary to carry out this policy.

The action was taken after the members learned the national CIO demanded that every international union must conform to so-called "national CIO policy," even though this policy conflicts with those adopted democratically by the membership of FTA. This, said Kopecky and Myers, would be "Dictatorship." Our members refuse to accept dictatorship from any one and will fight to retain the right to run their own affairs according to democratic procedures.

CIO Raiding

The membership vote was taken with the full knowledge that any group of workers who resist the dictatorial demands of CIO will be subject to disruption by raiding, and every other disruptive means at the hands of those who seek to impose Taft-Hartley conditions upon the workers in our plant. Local 110 FTA members will resist every disruptive attempt to smash their union.

Kopecky and Myers said: "The national CIO is attempting to confuse and divide the American worker by bringing up the false issue of 'communism.'" If democratic operation of a union and opposition to disruptive raiding of unions are "communism" then FTA must plead "guilty."

"However it is news to us that this right of the membership to run the union is 'communism.' We understood from Philip Murray and national CIO from the days that CIO was formed that the American way was for the membership to vote on issues and policies and not to accept dictation from top officials. It seems that these few heads of national CIO are wrecking the very principles which built the CIO.

"Local 110, FTA, will continue on a democratic basis at all times, and will continue to remain in FTA and uphold FTA policy.

FTA CRUSHES AFL RAID BY 2 TO 1 LANDSLIDE

By a crushing landslide vote, FTA Local 78 pushed the raiding AFL Teamsters into a complete defeat guaranteed to end Teamster interference in the fresh fruit and vegetable packingsheds for at least two years.

The score was: for FTA Local 78, 2,163; for the AFL Teamsters, 1,011. The election was the first large scale contest in which FTA was on the ballot, following the signing of Taft-Hartley affidavits by officers of the interenational.

Within a week of the Natl. Labor Relations Board ballot, shed workers underscored their FTA victory by voting better than six to one for a union shop, which will be a main point in the new contract between the local and the Growers Assn.

The election, held in the Salinas - Watsonville - Hollister area of the big local, was scheduled to be followed by other ballots in an intensive organization drive Local 78 is carrying out in the industry.

PROGRAM COUNTS

The positive program of FTA 78, plus the union's record in raising wages and conditions in what used to be a totally unorganized industry, won the victory for the local.

This program was stated in "Local 78 News," was repeated in numerous radio addresses, and was carried to the sheds by scores of energetic volunteer rank and file organizers.

The local invited the shed workers to "look at the record" in almost every piece of election material put out. As "Local 78 News" said in a final issue just before the balloting:

"Look at the record: 22 new sheds organized and under Local 78 FTA contracts. Master Local 78 contracts signed in every area, all calling for time and a half after 5 p.m. A union shop election guaranteed by the NLRB and contracts that call for Local 78 union shop on all sheds following those elections."

The local also put forward an aggressive program for 1950. Said Local 78 News": "Look at 78's program for 1950: A general wage increase for all shed workers. Job preference for experienced shed workers. Insurance for shed workers paid by the shippers. Union shop on all sheds."

'THESE ARE THE ISSUES'

"These are the issues. Study the record, study the program and vote Local 78, FTA," the local declared—and the shed workers agreed. by better than two to one.

The election puts at least a two year end to repeated attempts of the AFL Teamsters to muscle in on FTA's contracts and conditions in the fresh fruit and vegetable packing industry, one of the most important industries in California, Arizona and other western states.

It also chalks up a finish to a gang of renegades who deserted Local 78 and FTA in a nattempt to find easy pickings for themselves as Teamster bureaucrats.

This group, led by former Local 78 official Holman Day, tried first to bust up the union in 1948, when Day and his gang tried to lead the shed workers out of FTA and into the Teamsters.

The plot didn't work then, even though the shed workers had to vote "NO" on the ballot because the Taft-Hartley NLRB would not permit FTA's name to appear.

The AFL misleaders made a string of phony claims of what they would do for the shed workers. These were busted sky-high by the facts, as when Local 78 exposed a Teamster boast of having raised wages in a California cannery for a hollow lie.

The Teamsters piecards claimed they had raised wages in the Hunt Cannery by 26 cents an hour last year. The actual truth was the Teamsters were offered five cents an hour provided they would ask for no more increases for three years.

A rank and file Hunt Cannery worker revealed the truth when he said: "We have received no wage increase and now the AFL Teamsters want to call us out on strike without even allowing us to vote They won't allow us to vote or speak for ourselves."

The Present Crisis in CIO

By Donald Henderson
Natl. Administrative Director, FTA

It is time that a frank, blunt statement of what is taking place in National CIO be made. It is time that a spade be called spade, and that the record be made clear.

In 1937 FTA affiliated to the National CIO under the leadership of John L. Lewis with the full understanding that the CIO gave full autonomy and democracy to FTA and its membership. I have attended every Constitutional Convention of the CIO since that time and actively participated in the formulation and adoption of its first Constitution in 1938. Until this year, the National CIO Constitution has remained a document giving to International Unions and their memberships the democratic right for their rank and file and their elected officers to determine their own policies and elect their own representatives. Today dictatorship replaces democracy.

In May of this year, the National Executive Board of CIO passed a resolution ordering all represenatives of International Unions who are members of the National Executive Board of the CIO and ordering all International Unions to accept and carry out all policies and decisions made by the National Executive Board of the CIO or resign. Today this resolution has been translated into a Constitutional change by the 11th Constitutional Convention of the CIO held in Cleveland last month. These onstitutional changes bluntly say that every International Union, and all of their leaders and every member of those International Unions must carry out the decisions and policies determined by National CIO in its conventions or its National Executive Board meetings or face disciplinary action including expulsion.

FTA, its Conventions, its local membership meetings become little more than a rubber stamp for carrying out decisions already made by a few top leaders in the National CIO. In fact, three or four leaders in the National CIO can dictate the policies which by the present Constitution of the CIO must be carried out by every CIO member or be subject to expulsion. Philip Murray, president of the Steelworkers Union, Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers Union, and Emil Rieve, president of the Textile Workers Union, control a majority of votes. They have finally succeeded in placing straitjackets on every CIO member and on every union affilated to the CIO.

All during the past year and at the Convention in Cleveland, FTA and other progressive unions fought hard and left no stone unturned to try to maintain the original democracy, the original program and the unity of CIO. Every worker knows the unions that make up CIO were built on the basis of a militant struggle to organize the unorganized. Every worker knows that CIO was built on the basis of progressive, militant struggles against the employing class for wage increases, for progressive labor legislation. Every worker knows that CIO was built on the original program of organizing the workers regardless of race, creed, color or political opinion.

Program Dumped

What has happened is that this original program has been dumped by the Murrays, the Reuthers, the Careys, and the Rieves. A policy of dictatorship over all members of CIO has been substituted for the original policy of respecting the democratic rights of the membership of each union to determine its own programs and policies.

The original program of organizing the unorganized has changed to a program of raiding. The original CIO program of fighting for wage increases, improving working conditions, has been dropped for a program of wage freezes, no wage increases and respectability with the boss. The Textile Workers Union is a glaring example of this where a policy of no wage increases has been adopted throughout the industry.

Instead of mobilizing the millions of members of CIO and the rest of organized labor for a militant struggle in the 81st Congress to force Truman to deliver on his election promises, the National CIO officers tieing themselves to the Democratic Party like the tail of a kite, have played politics with congressmen and senators, and have compromised the fight for the repeal of Taft-Hartley. Represenatives of National CIO during the sessions of the 81st Congress gave explicit orders to the various International Unions not to mobilize their memberships, not to send delegations to Washington, not to develop mass pressure on wavering congressmen and senators.

Let us make one thing clear. FTA and the other progressive unions have fought to maintain the original program of CIO. We have fought to maintain the progressive character of CIO. We will continue that fight.

The basic question and issue here is whether there will be a labor movement, progressive in character, militant, dedicated to organizing the unorganized and devoted to the struggle to secure higher wages, better working conditions and improved labor legislation.

Not only are the trade union and economic rights of the members of all unions threatened, but their political liberties are being denied. President Murray has stated that once the National CIO PAC endorses a party or a candidate every CIO member and every CIO leader right down the line must carry out that endorsement. Support that candidate and that party; vote for that candidate and that party or be subject to expulsion. We do not question the right of National CIO to make recommendations on any question including political questions. Progressive unions in CIO, however, will fight for the right of their membership to determine their own economic and political policies and the right of their own membership to determine whom they support politically.

Let us make it clear, FTA will fight within CIO to keep the original program of CIO. FTA will fight to maintain a progressive labor movement in the United States. We will fight against the employers, to organize the unorganized. We will not surrender to a dictatorship in the labor movement. We will not surrender the progressive policies which originally built CIO. We care nothing about respectability except on the basis of that respect which comes from the organized strength of the workers to force the employers to grant wage increases and better conditions.

'Political Unionism' Seen By Press

The Washington Post, a very conservative newspaper owned by a former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, had a word for the political dictatorship shown by Philip Murray at the CIO convention.

Commenting on Murray's explusions and charges against unions whose members disagree with his views, the Post said in a recent editorial:

"Moreover, if the present trend toward political unionism is not arrested, the time may not be distant when the dissident non-Communist elements within the unions will face expulsion for political heresy—if, that is, they presume to criticize the political programs approved by union majorities, often at the dictation of the union leaders.

"There was more than a hint in President Murray's address at the CIO convention that any member opposing the policies which he endorses and urges members to fight for is an obstructionist unworthy to enjoy the privileges of membership in the CIO."

How FTA Spends Members' Dues

When FTA Acting President John Tisa finished speaking on the doubling of CIO per capita, CIO President Murray felt it was necessary to reply.

With heavy sarcasm, Murray claimed that national CIO had "returned" $145,385.62 of the total of $165,573,60 paid by FTA in per capita to CIO since 1937. This was supposed to prove that CIO had not made a profit on FTA's affiliation—as though a labor union was supposed to be a profit making concern.

The facts, as FTA delegates pointed out in one of their daily newsletters to FTA locals, are these:

Almost all of the money "returned" to FTA was used by FTA to organize the unorganized when John L. Lewis, not Murray, was President of CIO.

The money was used by FTA to organize the unorganized when FTA was first cracking an absolutely new field—the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries. Millions of dollars in wage increases to the workers are the payoff.

The rest of the money "returned" to FTA was used in such campaigns as the drive to organize California cannery workers, Florida citrus workers, Southern tobacco workers, etc. Since Murray became CIO head, FTA got only $30,000 for these drives.

Murray forgot to mention the $248,000 lost to FTA workers in standing off raids by CIO unions, plus millions lost in wage increases that would have come had CIO stuck to its original program of organizing the unorganized.

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About one-fifth of the 16 million unionists in the U.S. are women.

Locals 100% for FTA

Complete support for the policy of FTA in the present situation within CIO has been expressed by eery FTA local that had acted on the issue by the time FTA News went to press.

The locals have taken the action in endorsing the resolution (see page one) unanimously passed by the Intl. Executive Board at its meeting immediately after the CIO convention in Cleveland.

The support has either been unanimous, or with only a handful of dissenting votes or absententions. Each vote has been taken after full and complete discussion, led by FTA National Officers and Intl. Executive Board members and with active rank and file participation.

Key Locals Support

Among the key locals that have voted to support the Board resolution are Local 194, Chicago, by membership meeting; Local 80, Camden, by Stewards Council action; Local 56, Trenton, by unanimous vote of the Executive Board; Local 638, Lancaster, Pa., by membership action.

Other leading FTA locals endorsing the resolution include Local 300, representing D. W. G. Cigar Co. workers, Locals 273 and 647 in New York, Local 105 in New Brunswick, N. J., Local 160 in Hamilton, Ohio. With the exception of 273 and 105, the action was taken in membership meeting. Unanimous Board votes took place in these two.

In the Southern areas, Locals 45 and 57 in Richmond, Va., voted in membership meeting to support, as did Locals 19 in Memphis, Local 75 in Houston, Tex., and 309 in New Orleans. Local 10, North Carolina, voted in unanimous Board action.

Further membership action was taken in Local 110, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Local 125, St. Joseph, Mo., with Board action in Local 44, Decatur, Ind.

Membership meetings in the big Local 78, both in the SWH and Phoenix areas, gave overwhelming approval to the FTA Board resolution.

FTA's Tisa Fights Use Of Workers' Dues For Raiding

Breaking through the deliberate efforts of CIO President Murray to deny FTA the floor, Acting President John Tisa made a sharp protest against the use of workers' dues for raiding and disruption in CIO.

Tisa spoke on the resolution doubling CIO per capita from five cents per member per month to 10 cents. Text of Tisa's speech follows:

"On behalf of FTA we oppose any increase in per capita. Our organization in the past year and a half, particularly the past year, has been raided by other CIO unions with the help of national CIO, in some cases, in order to destroy certain sections of our union.

"Last year at the Portland convention, FTA supported an increase in per capita. We felt an increase would be needed to organize the unorganized. Instead we find we are paying out money to be used against us.

Cost to FTA

"These raids have cost our union in lost per capita $112,000. The cost of protecting our membership against these raids was $248,000.

"We have been raided by several different CIO unions—the CIO Woodworkers, Auto Workers, Packinghouse Workers, Brewery Workers. In the South we are now being raided by the Transport Service Union in our Local 22 at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

"You can cheer if you like—but only vulturous individuals would go after disorganizing the organized. FTA has never raided any other union and we don't intend to do business that way.

"The people in our union have won excellent wages and conditions. In canneries we have the highest and best wages of any AFL or CIO union in the country. Our Tobacco section has won great gains; as have the grain and cotton workers. We've won the highest and best wages in the fresh fruit and vegetable packing industry.

"Mr. Chairman, our union is vigorously opposed to any increase in per capita unless this convention comes out with a resolution and recommendation to end raiding and to use this money to organize the unorganized.

The Piecards Were There

Paid CIO employes and others acting as raiding and disrupting agents in international unions were well represented at the CIO Cleveland convention—each of them with officially recognized credentials.

In fact, they outnumbered the delegates from CIO internationals. According to the Credentials Committee report, more than half of the delegates seated were not representing international unions.

Of the total of 615 accredited, 273 came from internationals—the balance of 342 were from CIO Councils or Local Industrial Unions, which have always been used to provide credentials for people who can't get elected from internationals.

The group of dual unionists that was set up in the "Intl. Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers" to raid the genuine UE was a case in point. Not one of them represented an electrical, radio or machine worker.

James B. Carey, heading up the dual "IUE" was a delegate from Washington, D.C., where there are no electrical manufacturing plants. Others in the new raiding outfit came from laundry workers unions, bakery unions, construction workers, creosote and theater workers local industrial unions.

Everybody sympathizes with laundry workers, creosote workers, etc.—but it seems strange they have to be represented at CIO conventions by piecards and professional disrupters.

Note to CIO

THE RIGHT TO LIVE

One of the most conspicuous omissions of the 11th CIO convention was the failure to say anything about the wave of deportations facing active trade union members in this country today.

Not one resolution, not one action, not even one word was passed by the ruling clique of the CIO in protest against the deportation terror now being waged against every foreign-born, non-citizen unionist who hase ver stuck his neck out in behalf of organizing the workers.

Nothing was said about Luisa Moreno, long a leader of FTA, about Ernest Mangoang, Christ Mensalvas, and the other active members of FTA Local 7.

Nothing was said—except a sneering reference by CIO President Murray in an Executive Board meeting—about the fourth deportation trial of Harry Bridges.

Nothing was said or done by the CIO convention to halt the wave of deportation and concentration camp terror against Mexican workers brought in by the thousands to work in the fields and then rounded up and exiled when they protest against sweatshop wages.

Time was when the CIO used to fight for labor leaders hounded by the government. That was when the CIO used to fight for the workers those leaders represented.

Today, the top officials of CIO condone and encourage the persecution of labor leaders, especially when those leaders represent minority people among the rank and file—Negro workers, Mexicans, other groups that are underpaid and brutally exploited.

The actions of the top officials of the CIO at the 11th convention in Cleveland prove that they are forfeiting the right to speak for the minority peoples of America.

And when that right is forfeited, the right to speak for other workers goes with it.

They Got Troubles Too

Some of our most respectable "labor statesmen" are finding the redbaiting, splitting road they travel in CIO anything but a smooth, shiny boulevard—in fact, its just full of lumps for many of them.

Take Joe Curran—if you can stand the idea for a minute. Joe was right up there in the spotlight at the CIO convention, flailing away at the "reds" and doing a public striptease about the time he too used to be called one.

Only last week Joe's own Natl. Maritime Union—that's the way he refers to it—reared up and spit in his eye, by a vote of 1,297 to three. That was the vote in which his own members repudiated Joe's attempt to set aside regularly elected officers in New York and take over the port by administration.

Following that, the N.Y. rank and file massed in the union hall and literally kept Curran's appointed boys from muscling in. Even the scores of cops called in couldn't help him. Now the membership has Joe up on charges.

Or take Mike Quill—another one of the CIO "experts" on flailing the reds and publicly confessing his own past sins. Mike has his troubles too—such as the big Louisville, Ky., local of the Transport Union, that recently went AFL.

If you're still in the mood, take Johnny Green of the Shipbuilders. Just a few weeeks ago the two founding locals of the Shipbuilders—Local 1 and 2 in the Camden-Philadelphia area—voted themselves out of the CIO and into the AFL Boilermakers.

Still further down the list there's the CIO Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers, led by professional redbaiters and run completely out of the national CIO office in Washington. Gas, Coke has lost the bulk of its Southern membership in a revolt led by one of its international vice-president against incompetence and mismanagement.

Only the boss gloats over the misfortunes suffered by the members of unions led by such people as Curran, Quill, Green. They do have a point for the rest of us, however—that redbaiting and union-slitting end one way and one way only, in the disintegration of once powerful unions.

As one observer at the CIO Cleveland convention remarked: "Well, the AFL will always be around to pick up the pieces."

Convention Gags Speakers

Speakers who were at all critical of official CIO policies were frequently refused the floor at the Cleveland convention.

This was done although the chairman could clearly see that a delegate wanted the floor. The chairman also had a cutoff switch that he used when he didn't like the speech being made.

Walter P. Reuther, acting as chairman on the second day, arbitrarily refused the floor to FTA Acting President John Tisa, who wanted to speak on the Officers Report. This brought a sharp protest from the five FTA delegates, who said in a letter to CIO President Murray:

"The undersigned delegates representing FTA wish to officially protest the refusal of the Temporary Chairman of the convention, Walter P. Reuther, in denying the floor to our Acting President John Tisa.

"We feel that on a matter as important as the Officers Report some discussion and debate was desirable and essential. The railroading tactics of Temporary Chairman Walter Reuther in refusing the floor to all except one delegate is, in our opinion, indefensible."

...and don't get sold to Wilson!
Wilson & Co. does not bargain fairly with its employees . . . .
DON'T BUY WILSON
United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO

Xmas Cards To Help Daniels Case In N.C.

A national Christmas card greeting campaign to the Daniels cousins in the State Prison at Raleigh, and a $5,000 fund drive to carry on the appeal of these two young Negro victims of Greenville, N.C.'s, Jim Crow justice in the face of new delays and obstructions were launched at a meeting of the Daniels Defense Committee in Winston-Salem, N.C., last week-end. (Sat., Nov. 12). Over 100 were present, from 15 towns in North Carolina and from Florida, Virginia and South Carolina.

Copies of a Christmas card, carrying "A Christmas wish of courage and faith from one who pledges that you shall be free," are now being made available to organizations and individuals by the committee, for mailing to Bennie and Lloyd Ray Daniels beginning December 1. The price is 5 cents each, or $2.50 per 100.

Other cards urging Governor W. Kerr Scott to help free the Daniels cousins by finding the real killers of the white cab driver for whose murder they were convicted, are available free of charge. Orders for both cards should be addressed to Daniels Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1601, Durham, N.C.

In a report proposing the Christmas greeting campaign at the Winston-Salem meeting, Mrs. Velma Hopkins, FTA international organizer and a national committee member of the Progressive Party, pointed out its importance not only to bring encouragement from all over the nation to two teenaged youths who have already spent nearly a year in prison for a crime they did not commit, but also to make state officials aware of widespread public concern for justice in this case.

Back Pay Claims Due

Northern California cannery workers who have back claims due under the Natl. Labor Relations Board recently won by FTA must file their claims by February 28, 1950.

The amount due is $205,000, and was won for the workers by FTA after they had been illegally fired in the 1945 and 1946 cannery election drives.

Claims should be filed with the NLRB Regional Office in San Francisco.

FTA Board Resolution

THE CRISIS IN CIO

(Continued from page 1)

our membership we condemn these charges. However, we plead guilty to the charge that we have the right to carry out the policies determined by our membership whether they agree with National CIO or not.

We further condemn the establishment of a "Trial' Committee" composed of people whose speeches in the National CIO Convention prove that they cannot be impartial and will only act as judge, jury and executioner.

CONSEQUENTLY, in view of this denial of autonomy and democracy, and the violation of our Constitution, in view of raiding and the raising of per capita tax to increase this raiding, in view of the public slanders on our membership, and our leadership, it is necessary that we take every possible measure to protect our economic gains and political liberties, to protect our Union against these raids, to protect our contracts, and to protect the good name of our Union and our membership.

1 **THEREFORE**, this International Executive Board urges the membership of FTA throughout the country to give full support and authorization to this International Executive Board to take whatever steps are necessary, including withdrawal of affiliation from CIO, if necessary, to protect the economic interests of our members, our contracts, the organization of our membership in their Local Unions, and to protect the autonomy and democracy of our membership, our Constitution and the policies of our Union.

2 We further urge the membership of FTA to give full support and authorization to this International Executive Board to confer with other unions, who are concerned with maintaining the democratic rights of their membership, and to seek the maximum degree of cooperation with them in helping to carry on this fight.

3 We urge all Locals to discuss and adopt this resolution of the International Executive Board of FTA in their membership meetings.

Unanimously adopted,

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, FTA

JOHN TISA
Acting General President

ARMANDO VALDES
Genl. Secretary-Treasurer

ROBERT LATHAN
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Intl. Vice-Presidents

DONALD HENDERSON
National Admin. Director

International Executive Board

DUKE CUNNINGHAM
JOHN MACK DYSON
JOHN GALLACHER
PAUL GARDNER
HERBERT KLING
ERNEST MANGAOANG
MERVIN MYERS
MORANDA SMITH
R. H. SMITH

Rank and File Observers Join Five Delegates at Convention

Rank and File observers from FTA locals joined the five regular delegates from the international at the CIO Cleveland delegation.

They joined with the delegates in sending a daily airmail report and analysis of the convention to all FTA locals, meeting each night after the convention to discuss and prepare the report.

Observers included: Sally Sullivan, president, Local 300; William Downing, Local 80: James H. Walsh, Local 125; Henry Gistover, Local 194; Charles Munn, Local 186; Max Sussman, Local 45.

Delegates were: Acting President John Tisa; Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes; vice-Presidents Robert Lathan and Armando Ramirez and Administrative Director Donald Henderson.

FTA 194 UPHOLDS DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO MAKE OWN POLICIES

At the regular executive board meeting of Local 194, November 11, a full discussion was held on the CIO convention and its meaning to the membership of FTA.

Acting International President John Tisa was present and reported on the CIO convention and the stand of the FTA Executive Board. He reported the gains that the FTA membership has made in all fields, canning, tobacco, fresh fruit and vegetables, etc., under the democratic policies of our union.

He further reported that these democratic policies, which have more than doubled wages of FTA members, have brought paid vacations, holidays, grievance procedure and. many other gains to FTA members ARE NOW CONTRARY TO CIO POLICY AS ADOPTED AT THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION.

In essence, the policies adopted at the CIO convention are as follows:

1 The dictates of the national CIO are now the supreme law for every CIO member. Whether this means wage freezes; going along with compromises on Taft-Hartley repeal and civil rights; allowing the workers' living standards to be ground down by the needs of the cold war; or anything else—you have no right to disagree. The democratically decided policies of the membership no longer mean anything. In essence, what Phil Murray says governs every CIO member.

2 If you do not agree with every policy adopted by national CIO, you are expelled. Other unions will be ordered to move in on your plant, and raid you—take over your membership, your contracts, your union treasury, and force every member to conform to CIO national policy.

Tisa said that FTA has stood and will always stand for unity in the labor movement. We will try to stay in CIO by every means within our power — short of giving up the economic gains and democratic rights of our membership. But where there is no democracy there can be no unity—only oppression on the one hand, and resistance on the other.

Uphold FTA

A full discussion was held on all these matters. The executive board unanimously upheld FTA's right to be self-governing, that the will of the membership, democratically expressed, should continue to prevail in FTA in the future as in the past.

The demand that we run our own union, elect our own officers, govern ourselves by our own constitution, nationally and locally, we realize means VIOLATION OF CIO DICTATES.

We have learned that Allan Haywood, CIO Director of Organization, has already ORDERED THE PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS UNION TO RAID FTA.

THE DECISION IS GOING TO BE UP TO THE MEMBERSHIP. Now is the time for you to decide—DO YOU WANT TO KEEP THE UNION YOU HAVE FOUNDED, THAT HAS BEEN YOURS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, WHEREIN YOUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS ARE LAW?

As for the Executive Board, THEY VOTED TO FIGHT AGAINST ANY AND ALL ATTEMPTS TO RAID OUR UNION AND SET UP DICTATORIAL CONTROL OVER IT.

The board further voted that the statement of the international FTA board be distributed as soon as it is printed to every member of our local. We asked further that the National Office compile the gains of FTA members through FTA so that every member will know just what is at stake here.

The executive board feels that our membership — democratically united — can fight back and win. With all of us standing together, we can withstand any threats of raiding or of dictatorial control. WE CAN KEEP OUR FTA UNION, RETAIN OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND CONTINUE TO MAKE GAINS IN THE FUTURE AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

'Strange Things Happening' in U.S., Luisa Moreno Declares

"Strange things are happening in this land, and only when the truth is known can we put a stop to them."

Luisa Moreno, long a leader in FTA and in many scores of struggles for the rights of workers, white, Negro, Mexican, all nationalities and all beliefs, said this to the 12th 1949 California CIO convention late last month.

Sister Moreno said it not only in connection with her own case—she faces deportation to Guatemala for her union activities—but in reference to the whole list of persecutions against militant union and minority leaders now being carried on by the U. S. Immigration Dept.

Luisa Moreno

The list to date includes five active leaders of FTA's Local 7 in the Pacific northwest. It is constantly expanding, bringing serious threats to the entire labor movement throughout the U. S.

Sister Moreno described her own case, as she said "in quotation marks only, for this is but one of many cases, and must be viewed in its background, as the result of a new political trend in this country."

She told how her parents brought her from Guartemala as a child, fleeing from dictatorship and tyranny to the U. S. in search of freedom.

"From New York to Florida, from Florida to Texas and California, in many cities and towns, I became a part of the struggle to strengthen old AFL unions, to build and extend CIO locals—for better working conditions and more pay, for improvement in the deporable conditions of women workers, Negro workers, Mexican workers.

"Sometimes the struggle was mean. We fought in the midst of KKK terror. We were jailed for daring to strike. We fought desperately for the right to organize."

Then, Sister Moreno added, after her retirement, "the dividend is paid, in a most un-American manner, with a deportation warrant!"

She appealed directly to all unions to fight her case and the other cases, including the new attempt to deport and frame Harry Bridges, as a life-and-death matter for all unions.

"How long will the steelworkers, the mineworkers, any organized workers, keep their gains after basic civil rights are destroyed? How long after that will all unions be harnessed into company unionism and destroyed?"

Sister Moreno's case is being defended by many unions and other progressive organizations in the U. S., as are the cases of the threatened FTA Local 7 leaders.

These cases need your support. FTA members should send funds for defense in care of Armando Valdes, FTA Secretary-Treasurer, at 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

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The average American farm worker today produces nearly twice as much as his counterpart 40 years ago, according to a bulletin on productivity in agriculture published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

FTA Sticks to 1st Objective—Organizing—Henderson Says

FTA is sticking to its original program—and the original program of the CIO—to organize the unorganized and fight for economic gains, Natl. Administrative Director Donald Henderson told a radio audience in Winston-Salem, N.C., this week. The radio speech was broadcast to clarify events at the recent CIO convention.

"The primary purpose of the CIO, and of unions such as FTA that were affiliated to CIO, was to organize the unorganized and help them win higher wages and better conditions, regardless of race, creed, color or political belief," Henderson said.

"But today we find the national CIO departing from its original purpose and original constitution," he added. "The national CIO has turned its back on organizing the unorganized. It has turned its back on the main objective of winning higher wages and better conditions."

FTA has refused to do this, Henderson explained, saying "that is why FTA is in here fighting for the workers who need organization and who need union protection.

Resort To Raiding

"This is a bread and butter fight. All the gains so painfully won by Winston-Salem tobacco workers, and others, are endangered by the present dictatorial rule-or-ruin policies of the national officers of CIO."

National CIO, in turning its back on its original purposes, resorts to raiding and disruption of other unions in the attempt to cover up, Henderson continued, adding:

"FTA has never tried to invade any other jurisdiction. FTA is not interested in organizing transport service workers (the CIO Transport Service union is currently trying to raid FTA Local 22 in Winston-Salem.) We have the greatest sympathy and support for the rank and file in the transport service industry, but we do not try to butt into their affairs or take over their locals.

"FTA does not side with the employers and against the workers in any industry or area. But this, my friends, is what those unions that raid and disrupt among other unions are doing.

"What greater break could a hard-boiled, reactionary corporation like the R. J. Reynolds Co. hope for than to have another union come and try to confuse, disrupt, split up the workers in its plant?"

This is the real meaning of the struggle for democracy in the labor movement, Henderson said. "No smokescreen or false whiskers of alleged 'communism' should be allowed to hide that fact. Dictatorship over the internal affairs of international unions, now proposed by the top officials of CIO, means dictatorship over the struggle for higher wages and better conditions."

Henderson quoted from the unanimous statement of the FTA Intl. Executive Board (see page one) issued immediately after the 11th CIO convention.

Threats Made

"The membership of the various international unions were threatened with expulsion unless they accepted the decisions of a handful of men on the Executive Board of the CIO and unless they gave up the democratic rights of their own memberships and their own international unions to determine their policies," he said, quoting the resolution.

Henderson warned that the "future of the progressive, fighting labor movement" is at stake in the situation today.

"For its part," he said, "FTA will carry on in the original way of the CIO—the way of fighting hard for the workers, of fighting to preserve and strengthen the gains that have been made over many years of bitter struggle.

"This is the way FTA intends to travel, the way FTA will continue to deserve and to get the support of the workers."

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The Bureau of Agricultural Economics forecasts another decline of 10% in farm income and prices received for farm products in 1950. This is a decline equal to that between 1948 and 1949, and would bring the total drop to about 20% from the high of mid-1948.

Fourth of U.S. Families Underfed, Report Shows

Nearly ¼ of the families in the U.S. receive incomes substantially below the level necessary for decent subsistance.

Evidence of this was contained in a study of low income families and economic stability prepared by a Congress reporting this month.

The report, using 1948 Census bureau statistics, shows four million families (over 10 percent) earned income of $1,000 or less; 5.6 million families (nearly 15 percent) earned between $1,000 and $2,000; 7.9 million (20.6 percent) earned between $2,000 and $3,000; and 8 million families earned between $3,000 and $4,000. Only 1.1 million families (2.9 percent) earned $10,000 or more.

Highlighting the desperate plight of a quarter of the country's citizens, members of families earning $2,000 or less, the report cited recent studies by the Bureau of Labor statistics which showed that a family of four in 1947 needed a minimum of $3,004 in New Orleans and a maximum of $3,458 a year in Washington, DC. to maintain an "adequate standard of living," and data by the Social Security Adm. showing that an elderly couple would need at least $1,365 a year to live in Houston, Tex. or $1,767 a year to live in Washington D.C.

A measure of hardships endured by these families is given in the section of the report on living conditions. About 2.3 million families in the under $2,000 a year group living in cities are shown to own their own dwellings but the condition of this dwellings is shown to be miserable. Some 700,000 families live in dwellings which require major repairs. Another 900,000 units occupied by these families had no running water.

Undernourished

Despite the fact that one out of every six of the urban families with incomes less than $2,000 spent less than $5 per person a week for food, the proportion of their incomes which it was necessary to hand over for edibles was much higher than the percentage paid by families with incomes of $2,000 or over.

In order to make both ends meet the low income families had to purchase foods which do not contain necessary health giving vitamins and minerals. Diets of these families contained 10 percent less calcium and riboflavin (from milk) and 12 percent less vitamin A than families with higher incomes.

The staff found that unskilled and semi skilled workers were among the greatest sufferers. "In this connection," the report states, "the low income of unskilled workers in some industries may be partially explained as a result of their poor bargaining strength." The staff found that the problem of a minimum wage, therefore "is germaine" to the committee.

Although most of the under $2,000 income families live in cities, the report states, low farm income remains a vital problem with 3.3 million farm families earning $2,000 or less and 1.7 million families on the farm earning less than $1,000 a year.

Of the city families listed as earning less than $2,000, 1.7 million are headed by men 65 or over; 2.2 million families are headed by unskilled workers, and 800,000 are listed as "non-white."

"This proportion of non-white in the low income group is considerably greater than the proportion of non-whites in the general population," the report states. But the question of discrimination is not mentioned, the staff merely concluding that programs for broadening the educational opportunities of Negro workers might be of help.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS...

FTA'S RECORD

By JOSEPH CALIFF
Research & Education Director

Bosses don't like unions. Most of all they don't like unions which make it their business to fight for higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions for their members.

To get an idea of how good a job FTA has done, the Research and Education Department has been checking through some of the old contract files going back to the time the union was founded in 1937. A check of these records shows an outstanding record of achievement in securing better wages and working conditions for FTA members.

When FTA first started, wages as low as 15 and 20 cents an hour were quite common in food, tobacco and fiber plants which have since been organized by the union. Today, the average wage in our factories is well over $1.00 an hour.

Since the end of the war alone, at least one hundred million dollars in wage increases has been added to the pay checks of FTA members.

Just as important as wage increases are the job security, seniority protection, grievance procedure and other rights which these contracts provide.

Here is the picture of the gains made by some FTA locals:

Before Local 7 negotiated its first contract in 1938, wages of the workers who go every year from Seattle to work in the Alaska salmon canneries were as low as $59.50 a month—less than 30 cents an hour. Working conditions were miserable. Today the minimum wage is $221.56 a month, which is an increase of nearly 300 per cent, and great progress has been made in getting decent job and living conditions for the workers.

Leaf tobacco workers in Richmond, Va., employed by the Export Leaf Tobacco Co. were getting $3 to $8 a week and had to work unlimited hours when they struck for a union in 1938. Since then FTA Local 45 has raised the minimum wages in this plant from 10 cents to 70 cents an hour, and has gained shorter hours, premium pay for overtime, vacations and paid holidays.

At Van Camp Sea Food Co. in San Diego Calif., Local 64 has established a minimum wage of $1.45 an hour, highest in the canning industry.

In three years' time, Local 22 raised wages at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, N. C., by 29 cents an hour. This record was achieved despite the fact that during half of this period pay increases were greatly limited by the wage-freezing policies of the War Labor Board.

Campbell Soup workers in Camden and Chicago make an average of $1.46 an hour today because of the militant struggle of Locals 80 and 194. Before the union the average wage was 59 cents an hour. The company today boasts of its high wage scale, but every single penny of the raises gotten over the last nine years had to be forcibly extracted from this huge nickel-nursing corporation by the economic strength of the union.

Workers in the California-Arizona vegetable and melon packing sheds have come a long way since they formed the union which became FTA Local 78. Back in 1933, women trimmers working in the lettuce deal were paid as little as 20 cents an hour. Rates for packers were as low as 50 cents an hour or 2 cents a crate on piecework. Today, Local 78 has a minimum scale of $1.30 an hour and 6½ cents a crate for lettuce packers, and $1.05 for trimmers. Rates for other jobs have been raised correspondingly. Many workers make more than $2.00 an hour.

Although the first union contract was not signed until late in 1945, Local 1550 has one of the best contracts in the tobacco industry with the United States Tobacco Co. in Nashville, Tenn. The minimum wage is $1.00 an hour. Other money benefits include vacations up to three weeks a year, six paid holidays, liberal premium pay for overtime, injury benefits, 10 days paid sick leave, rest periods, call-in pay, and night shift bonus.

The table below shows the gains in minimum wages and other money benefits which have been won by some FTA locals. This, of course, is just a partial list and could be made much longer if there were space to show the gains of other locals.

INCREASES IN MINIMUM WAGES AND OTHER MONEY GAINS WON BY FTA, SELECTED PLANTS

Local No.	Company	Date of First Contract	Minimum Hourly Wage[1] Before Union	1949	Other Money Gains[2]
7	Alaska Salmon Industry	1938	$59.50[3]	$221.56[3]	a d
15	American Tobacco Co., Charleston, S. C.	1943	.40	.70	a b c d e f
17	California Packing Corp., Rochelle & DeKalb, Ill.	1943	.40	.84	a b c d f
19	Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Memphis, Tenn.	1942	.35	.85	a b c f
19	Federal Compress & Wholesale Co., Memphis, Tenn.	1941	.30	.70	a b f
19	Quaker Oats Co., Memphis, Tenn.	1942	.35	.86	a b c d e f
26	Plants Nut & Chocolate Co., Suffolk, Va.	1938	.20	.76	a b c f g
44	Central Soya, Inc., Decatur, Ind.	1941	.50	1.21½	a b c f g
45	Export Leaf Tobacco Co., Richmond, Va.	1938	.10	.70	a b c f
64	Van Camp Sea Food Co., San Diego, Calif.	1937	.50	1.45	a b f
75	Gulf Atlantic Wholesale Co. (4 plants) Houston, Tex.	1942	.30	.88	a b f g
80	Campbell Soup Co., Camden, N.J.	1941	.38	1.00	a b c d e f g
110	Quaker Oats Co., Cedar Rapids, Ia.	1941	.41½	1.00½	a b c d e f g
115	Quaker Oats Co., Depew, N. Y.	1941	.35	.99½	a b c d e f g
150	U. S. Tobacco Co., Nashville, Tenn.	1945	.48	1.00	a b c d f g
166	Marshall Canning Co., Marshalltown, Ia.	1937	.30	.77½	a b c f
186	American Preserve Co., Phila., Pa.	1937	.40	1.05	a b c f
194	Campbell Soup Co., Chicago, Ill.	1940	.40	.98	a b c e f g
200	Augustus Pollack, Inc., Wheeling, W. Va.	1940	.30	.82	a b f g
300	D. W. G. Cigar Corp., Ohio & Mich.	1941	.30	.77	a b c f g
309	Swift & Co., Harvey, La.	1941	.40	.90	a b c f
638	Consolidated Cigar Corp., Lancaster, Pa.	1942	.35	.78	a b c d f

1 Time work rates.
2 Explanation of symbols used in this column:
a.—Overtime premium pay better than required by law, and holiday premium.
b.—Paid vacations.
c.—Paid holidays.
d.—Welfare benefits (insurance, hospitalization, sick leave, etc.)
e.—Pensions.
f.—Call-in pay.
g.—Shift bonus.
3 Per month, plus meals and living quarters.

THE HAYWIRE SHED

(The "fruit tramps"—the men and women who pack the nation's fresh fruit and vegetables—are great hands at writing and singing poetry. The following item was received from FTA Local 78, which organizes the packing sheds in the west.)

This haywire shed is a pain in the neck;
The boss ain't around when you want your check.
My job's about through and I'm still in the red;
I'll make the next deal on some other shed.

The packer is a cowboy, and the trimmers are slow;
The same every day, we're 50 crates low.
The high packer cries out his lungs every day;
If the table ain't snowed he's wanting more hay.

One of these days when he's griping and red;
I'll slam a big four right square at his head.
The cull shute is clogged, the press it is down;
The iceman's off drunk, when he should be around.

The lettuce is busted and big as your head;
There's no use in bringing the stuff to the shed.
I wonder who buys this hay anyhow?
I wouldn't feed it to a half starved cow.

The whole crew's nerves are beginning to crack;
I'm afraid to stand with a man at my back.
If you've got a good friend you never can tell;
Even crapshooters are crooked as "hell."

Someone walks off with your apron and knife;
They try the same thing with another man's wife.
Deal after deal, it's always the same;
I swear I'm through with this lettuce game
Remember someday when I'm gone,
That I'm in "OKLAHOMA," where I belong.

Author Unknown

Firm to Publish Books on Unions

Formation of a new publishing firm that aims to reach workers with books about unions is announced in California.

The firm is the Olema Publishing Co., Olema, Calif., and the first book on their list will be a history of a small but fighting union — the Marine Cooks and Stewards. MCS is one of the 11 unions cursed by CIO President Philip Murray at the recent CIO convention. It also happens to have the highest wage scales in its section of the maritime industry.

Another Olema book for early publication is the "Big Strike," by Mike Quin, late and fiery west coast union writer. The Quin book will deal with the history of the struggles on the coast from 1932 to 1937, with detailed treatment of the 1934 longshore and general strike in San Francisco. It was written some time before Quin's untimely death, and no commercial publisher would touch it.

The "Big Strike" can be ordered in advance by sending $1.00 to Olema Publishing Co., Olema, Calif.

Profits Going UP

Profits of the nation's electric power and light companies continued their upward trend in the third quarter of 1949 and were well on their way to a new record.

In the first half of 1949, the electric companies reported record profits of $391 million, or 13 per cent higher than the similar period of 1948. Profits for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1949 were still higher. They stood at $170 million, 17 percent above the third quarter of 1948.

CORRECTION

A news item in the October issue of FTA News incorrectly stated that FTA Local 19 was the "only CIO union to win raise in Tennessee." A letter from Regional Director Larry Larsen to the Editor states:

"The story that appeared in the October issue of FTA News relating to Local 19 as the only CIO union to win raises is an error on our part. What we meant was that in spite of the fact that many unions in Tennessee have signed contracts without wage increases, Local 19 was able to get wage increases this year."

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FTA

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of Ame...

Vol. VIII—No. 11 NOVEMBER, 1949 Price Five Cents

Locals Support FTA Policy in CIO Issue

(SEE PAGE 4)

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FTA's delegates and observers at a session of the 11th CIO convention in Cleveland. From left: National Administrative Director Donald Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes, Intl. Vice-President Robert Lathan and Acting President John Tisa. On Tisa's left is Sally Sullivan, President of Local 300, one of the FTA observers. Intl. Vice-President Armando Ramirez was absent on union business when photo was taken.

The Situation in the CIO—By Donald Henderson

Page 5